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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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     SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
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                                            23 CR 251(AKH)
                V.
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     CHARLIE JAVICE and OLIVIER
5
     AMAR,
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                   Defendants.
      -----x
 7
                                            New York, N.Y.
 8
                                            May 30, 2021
                                            4:20 p.m.
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     Before:
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                       HON. ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN,
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                                            District Judge
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                               APPEARANCES
13
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14
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          Southern District of New York
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THE COURT: This is U.S. v. Charlie Jervice. Counsel,
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      please state your appearances for the record.
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               MS. McLEOD: Good afternoon, your Honor.
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               Dina McLeod, Rushmi Bhaskaran, and Nicholas
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      Chiuchiolo, for the government.
               THE COURT: Good afternoon.
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               MR. NITZE: Sam Nitze, Neil Phillips, Jenny Braun,
      here for defendant, Charlie Javice.
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               THE COURT: Good afternoon.
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               MR. BUCKLEY: Good afternoon.
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               Sean Buckley, Alexandra Swette, Jenna Sinel, Jake
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      Rush, for Mr. Amar, who is seated with me at counsel table.
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               THE COURT: I'm sorry that you had to wait while we
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      recovered a bit from a trial day, but here we are.
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               So we have a motion by defendants to dismiss the
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      indictment, to ask for a bill of particulars, and to suppress
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      evidence obtained by a warrant. Who will speak for the
     defendants?
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               MR. NITZE: Sam Nitze for Ms. Javice.
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               MR. BUCKLEY: And Sean Buckley on behalf of Mr. Amar.
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               THE COURT: Who is going first?
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               MR. NITZE:
                          I will, your Honor.
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               THE COURT:
                          Please take the podium. Go ahead.
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               MR. NITZE:
                          So, your Honor, we advance a number of
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      arguments in the papers in support of dismissal of the
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indictment. We think every count is deficient. And I'm happy to answer questions about some of the bases for dismissing them, but I wanted to focus today on really the core theme that's at the center of the motion papers, which has to do with lack of specificity in the charging instrument.

THE COURT: The threshold is pretty low; isn't it?

MR. NITZE: It is low. And it has Constitutional

underpinnings. It has to satisfy — it has to set forth the

elements of the offenses charged, but also independently to

give a sufficient factual basis to permit a defendant to

prepare to defend at trial. And it's really that second aspect

that we think is badly lacking here.

And, of course, you know, there are phrases in cases saying you need do little more than track the language of the indictment. You are, of course, familiar with that. But really behind that, and in the context of the cases that grapple with this question, is a question about fair notice.

THE COURT: There are two elements here. What's legally required for an indictment and the second is what's fair to you. So that you could prepare for trial and know what you have to deal with.

The first one, I think you can see that the threshold is very low, that if the government tracks -- if the indictment tracks the statute, it's sufficient.

MR. NITZE: I don't concede that this indictment

satisfies the threshold of the crime, but --

THE COURT: It seems to. I mean, the first count is an indictment. They do allege a conspiracy in Paragraph 2. They allege the illegal object of the conspiracy in Paragraph 3. And that spells out the conspiracy, similarly with wire fraud and bank fraud and securities fraud. I mean, it's not a bill of particulars, which you also want. It's an indictment. It does the job.

MR. NITZE: I agree that it sets out the elements of the charged offenses. It does not provide, at the level of the indictment, the charging instrument sufficient factual allegations to put the defense on notice. I mean, I can move to the argument about bill of particulars. I just --

THE COURT: Well, I need to determine the adequacy of the indictment. So if you have any arguments, present them.

MR. NITZE: That is the argument, that if you look at the requirement, although the bar is low, especially in a fraud case.

THE COURT: Well, what's missing from the conspiracy count?

MR. NITZE: Which misrepresentations. The nature of the omissions or misrepresentations.

THE COURT: They don't have to do that.

MR. NITZE: Which victims. Who, in particular, was intended to be defrauded.

THE COURT: Indictments don't have to do that. 1 2 MR. NITZE: They have to allege some factual basis. 3 THE COURT: You allege enough so that you know what's 4 charged and that -- it sets up a double jeopardy guarantee. 5 you're quilty, you know what you're quilty of, and no one can 6 sue you again. If you're not quilty, you know what you're 7 acquitted of. Look, the indictment does what it has to do, not more. But it does what it has to do. I don't see any point of 8 9 illegality in it. 10 MR. NITZE: I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. You don't 11 see any point? THE COURT: I don't see any deficiency in it. 12 I could 13 see your need for a bill of particulars, perhaps. We'll go 14 into it. But for an indictment, I think it's okay. 15 What do you say, Mr. Buckley? MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Judge. 16 17 I just wanted to jump in on the point that your Honor 18 is making. We believe that the indictment is legally insufficient for the reasons that Mr. Nitze pointed out. 19 20 in addition, recognizing your Honor's ruling here, we don't 21 think it adequately alleges bank fraud as a matter of law. 22 THE COURT: I'm sorry. You don't think it adequately 23 alleges? 24 MR. BUCKLEY: Bank fraud as a matter of law. And the 25 reason being the conduct that is set forth both in the

indictment and in the government's complaint is conduct that it is ascribing to JP Morgan in operating in a capacity that is beyond what the bank fraud statute was designed to protect. It was not operating as an FDIC insured entity when it invests and acquires a company.

So bank fraud, under those circumstances, for the reasons that we noted, and I don't want to repeat our briefing to the Court as I'm sure the Court has reviewed --

THE COURT: I don't mind repetition.

MR. BUCKLEY: At Page 25 to 27 of our opening brief, we set forth the authorities that make clear, including FINRA's reporting requirements and preservation requirements — if the Court recalls, one of the issues that has come up in the course of the discovery disputes that we've had is the destruction of e-mails or files maintained by custodians that we believe are relevant to this case. If the bank were operating in an FDIC insured capacity, it would not have been permitted to destroy those files under FINRA's regulations.

So we think that further supports the point here.

That at the end of the day, yes, JP Morgan Chase operates as an FDIC insured entity. The conduct in which it engaged, as alleged in the indictment, is separate and apart from that role as an FDIC insured entity, and therefore the applicability of the bank fraud statute is not appropriate under these circumstances. There are other federal fraud statutes that do

not rely upon the FDIC insured status or responsibilities of a bank.

It's effectively operating as a commercial party trying to market its products. That does not deserve the heightened protections that the bank fraud statute, 18 U.S.C. 1344 provides. And we think for that reason, the indictment is defective on its face.

And there's an additional reason with respect to securities fraud as applied to Mr. Amar that I'm happy to address with the Court. But that, I think, is a core and fundamental flaw with the legal authority presented by the indictment in this case that warrants dismissal.

THE COURT: Ms. McLeod. On bank fraud.

MS. McLEOD: Your Honor, if it's all right with the Court --

THE COURT: Take the podium, please.

MS. McLEOD: -- AUSA Bhaskaran will address this.

THE COURT: Surely. Mr. Nitze, if you will surrender the podium, please?

MR. NITZE: Sure.

MS. BHASKARAN: Thank you, your Honor.

The bank fraud statute does not limit itself to only those situations when a bank is acting in its core banking capacity. There are two ways to violate Section 1344, the bank fraud statute. The first is through a scheme to defraud a bank

of something of value. That prong of the statute does not say that the scheme to defraud has to involve something such as a loan agreement or anything like that.

And the second way that a defendant can violate the bank fraud statute is through a scheme to obtain money or property under the custody of a bank. And so that prong, too, does not require a bank to be acting in an official banking capacity. And, in fact, that prong doesn't require a bank to be defrauded at all. It just requires a scheme to obtain property under the bank's custody.

So what the defendants are asking the Court to do here is to read in a statutory requirement that a bank be acting in a certain way when it is defrauded. But the statute does not do that. The indictment here tracks the language of Section 1344. And so for that reason, it is sufficient. There is no requirement that the banking — that the fraud that is alleged has to relate to core banking functions.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Bhaskaran.

I hold that the motion with respect to bank fraud should be denied. In order to allege a bank fraud offense, the indictment need only describe a scheme to deprive the bank of something of value or to obtain any of the moneys or other property owned by or under the custody or control of a financial institution. That's the holding of the *United States v. Weigand*, 482 F.Supp. 3d 224 at Page 235 (S.D.N.Y. 2020).

The indictment tracks this language and the allegations are sufficient.

The case relied on by the defendant, *United States v. Bouchard*, 828 F.3d 116 at Page 126 (2d Cir. 2016) involved a completely distinguishable situation. There, the defendant was convicted of bank fraud for defrauding an uninsured mortgage broker that was a subsidiary of Lehman Brothers, a financial institution. The Second Circuit held that Lehman's interest was insufficient to establish a Section 1344 liability because the mortgage company, not Lehman as the financial institution, was a target of the scheme. We don't have that here. We have an allegation of a fraud that deprived the bank of its property. So that part of the motion is denied.

With respect to the other parts to the motion, the motion is also denied.

With regard to the motion to dismiss, the elements of a conspiracy are alleged, and there is sufficient notice in these allegations, to allow the defendant to defend. There is an argument that materiality is not alleged specifically, but it's alleged sufficiently in the allegation of fraud. And under *United States v. Klein*, 467 F.3d 111 (2d Cir. 2007), an allegation of materiality can be inferred from the use of "fraud," of the word "fraud" in the indictment. That was also the holding of *Neder v. United States*, 527 U.S. 1 at Page 1, decided in 1999. The wire fraud, the bank fraud, the

securities fraud are all sufficiently alleged. So the motion to dismiss is denied.

We'll come on to the bill of particulars.

Now, there's been extensive discovery in this case.

There's a complaint that goes over the details of the crimes alleged in sufficient detail so that the defendants know what's going on and have plenty of notice to defend themselves. I wonder why that's not enough, Mr. Nitze.

MR. NITZE: Your Honor, the case centers on a conspiracy and a set of schemes in the substantive counts that leave us without any -- we don't have a good understanding of its scope. We don't know -- the most important thing is we don't know who we are alleged to have conspired with.

We have two defendants before the Court alleged to have engaged in a conspiracy with others known and unknown.

And the charging instruments provide -- even if you look to the complaint and the discovery -- really no meaningful guidance as to who those others might be.

And, in fact, in conferring with the government before filing the request for the application for particulars, the government directed us to a document dated May 10 of 2021 before the alleged start of the conspiracy with some 76 entities and various officials and officers listed there. It made the problem substantially worse, not better. We don't know if we are to expect a trial at which we defend against an

allegation that our client defrauded "Noodle" or any of the other companies listed on that sheet.

And I would just note that here, unlike in the context your Honor just addressed with respect to legal sufficiency of the charging instrument, you have broad discretion to fashion a remedy in the interest of fairness. And the various factors that courts look to that are — there are several of them set out in the *Nachamie* case, but there are others — cut heavily in favor of further particulars being provided here.

There's no government investigation at jeopardy. This is not a violent crime case where there might be interests in shielding the names of conspirators in the interest of witness safety. Nor is it the type of alleged conduct at issue in many of those cases where the Court could reason that the defendants know who they are alleged to have conspired with because of the nature of the conduct. Your Honor has —

THE COURT: I take your point, Mr. Nitze.

It's important to know who the conspirators are because their statements will be binding once they are shown to be members of the conspiracy. In order to defend, they need to know who will be the conspirators. That doesn't mean that you be precluded from everybody else. But there's got to be some more information disclosed.

MS. McLEOD: Your Honor, would you like me to take the podium or --

1 THE COURT: Yeah, take the podium. 2 MS. McLEOD: So, your Honor, I think we addressed this in our briefing. I think the main concern that the government 3 4 has is that a bill of particulars binds the government's proof to the bill of particulars. And as Judge Liman pointed out in 5 United States --6 7 THE COURT: I don't need you to be bound. understand what you are worried about. You're worried that if 8 9 you list seven, you will be barred from using the eighth. What 10 I'd like to have is a good-faith listing of the names that you 11 know of, and you can add language that reserves your right to 12 deal with others as they come up. But I do want Mr. Nitze and 13 Mr. Buckley to have knowledge of who the conspirators are. 14 MS. McLEOD: That's understood, your Honor. 15 THE COURT: How are you going to do that? MS. McLEOD: In a letter. 16 17 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Buckley, are you satisfied with that? 18 19 MR. BUCKLEY: With respect to the identities of 20 coconspirators, yes. That works for us on behalf of Mr. Amar. 21 THE COURT: Mr. Nitze? 22 MR. NITZE: With respect to that category of 23 particulars, yes, your Honor. 24 THE COURT: Okay. So you'll deliver that letter. 25 The second aspect of what they want to know by their

motion...

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MR. NITZE: If I may, your Honor.

THE COURT: No, I've got it.

A comprehensive list of the alleged misrepresentations. Again, I am not looking to lay a trap for you, Ms. McLeod, but that letter should include the list -- the misrepresentations --

MS. McLEOD: Just to make sure we are appropriately following the Court's direction, I assume that doesn't mean every time the mis- -- what they are seeking in the motion is every misrepresentation; the date, the time, who --

THE COURT: I'm not requiring that.

MS. McLEOD: Okay.

THE COURT: Because many of them were repeated a number of times, and I don't need you to give that level of particularization. But I want it -- I want you to tell Mr. Buckley and Mr. Nitze what were the misrepresentations.

MS. McLEOD: Understood, your Honor. Again, this is as with the unindicted coconspirators. This would not be in the form of a bill of particulars that binds the government, but is in order to provide them with additional information.

THE COURT: It's a disclosure order.

MS. McLEOD: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And I think you can say what were the misrepresentations, who uttered them, and to whom they were

uttered, and if you have a date, you can provide the date. If there are several dates, you can list a range of dates. But there should be some level of disclosures.

MS. McLEOD: We can do that, your Honor. Just so your Honor knows, in terms of the nature of the fraud scheme, the nature was the defendants were pitching their company to many other potential acquiring companies. And in their pitches and in their statements to their own investment advisory firm, they repeated the same misrepresentations —

THE COURT: Yeah. But you're focusing on Chase,

JP Morgan Chase. That's your focus. What they may have said

to others may be 404 evidence. But they are not

misrepresentations of a material nature. What was material is

what induced JP Morgan to do the deal.

MS. McLEOD: Understood, your Honor.

THE COURT: The third, fourth are the targets of the alleged fraud. Well, the targets of the alleged fraud is JP Morgan Chase.

Yes, Mr. Buckley.

MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Judge.

The indictment goes beyond JP Morgan Chase and identifies Bank 1 as well. So to the extent they are required — they being the government — is required to identify the misstatements, by whom uttered, to who uttered, and approximate dates, we would ask the same be done with

respect to Bank 1. And this is particularly important for Mr. Amar, as I know the Court is aware from just reviewing the complaint. There is an utter paucity --

THE COURT: I take your point --

MR. BUCKLEY: -- of statements.

THE COURT: The indictment says, in order to defraud those companies, meaning JP Morgan Chase and Bank 1 and maybe others -- so I think we want to limit who we have. I think you're going to identify Bank 1. And if there are others, in other words, those companies, add them. But I guess we need to limit here who are the targets.

MS. McLEOD: Yes, your Honor. We have identified Bank 1 to the defendants. They know.

THE COURT: Get back to the letter. It will not be burdensome.

MR. BUCKLEY: Judge, just to be clear, Bank 1, which as Ms. McLeod stated, has been identified for us. But also the other entities that they are going to contend were the subject of the conspiracies or the schemes --

THE COURT: What about that, Ms. McLeod?

MS. McLEOD: So we think the letter that we -- the disclosure letter where we will put in the misrepresentations to the potential acquiring companies, which will include Bank 1 and JP Morgan Chase, approximate dates or date ranges, and the speakers, if we're aware.

THE COURT: Right. And I also want you to list the targets of the conspiracy on the fraud.

MS. McLEOD: Yes. So by --

THE COURT: Who was being defrauded?

MS. McLEOD: Yes. So by that, the potential acquiring companies would encompass your Honor's concern there.

THE COURT: How is it a securities fraud or any kind of fraud if only JP Morgan did the deal? Why is there a fraud for someone who didn't do the deal? That could be an attempted fraud.

MS. McLEOD: So the fraud is complete when the scheme -- so the scheme is -- so, yes, there are certainly attempts on all of these companies. They completed all of the elements of a fraud. For example, Bank 1, they told them lies about the company in order to gain money or property from that bank. The bank ultimately did not decide to give them that money or property but they were still victims of the fraud nonetheless.

THE COURT: I don't see how they are victims.

18 U.S.C. Section 2 is cited, and that takes in aiders,
abettors. Withdrawn.

If I utter a falsehood intending to cause you to part with something of value but you don't, have I committed a fraud?

MS. McLEOD: Yes. The fraud does not have to be

successful.

THE COURT: I didn't know that. Okay. So you list the targets of the fraud. I think that takes care of the bill of particulars.

MR. BUCKLEY: Listing the targets of the fraud will certainly help, your Honor. I do want to say the broad construction that Ms. McLeod just gave, the mere utterance of something misleading, giving rise to liability under the federal fraud statutes, this may run directly into the issue that we flagged in our motions regarding the Supreme Court's case in Ciminelli, the Buffalo Billions case. That was decided in I believe May of 2023, which said the mere deprivation of information that could impact an economic decision is not sufficient to give rise to criminal liability under federal fraud statutes. It may give rise under other statutes, but not criminal liability.

I just want to flag that so the Court is aware because depending on the list of purported victims that are identified as the acquiring companies, this may be an issue that we need to reraise with the Court.

THE COURT: We don't have to do it now, though. There will be time to do that with charges. It's enough now that Chase was deprived of the property. So the fraud is complete with Chase. And if the government has notions that others were targeted, they'll list it.

That that deals with the particular. Now we get to the motion to suppress.

Mr. Buckley.

MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Judge.

So the motion to suppress obviously was filed on behalf of Mr. Amar. And with the Court's permission, I'm going to start from a bit of an unorthodox angle here, which is to address the last argument that the government presented in support of its opposition first. And the reason I do that is I think it really encapsulates the core harm, the need for a prophylactic suppression here of this sort of warrant.

So the government is not entitled, as so many cases have found, to rely on good faith. And why is that?

In the first sentence, the warrant itself is riddled with inaccuracies. The cover page of the affidavit called for a warrant to authorize them to execute it at any time of day or night. The warrant itself found that it was appropriate to order delayed notice of a warrant that needs to be required — needs to be served on the person at the time of execution. Those flaws in the warrant in and of themselves were sufficient to give a reasonable officer executing the warrant cause to pause and consider, okay, are there other issues here.

Now, putting aside those technical flaws that the government — the only defense they present to them, despite presenting it to a magistrate judge and averring that those

requests were supported by information contained in the affidavit itself, which they were not.

Putting that aside, the manner in which this warrant was obtained and ultimately executed undercuts any claim of good faith by the government. These agents obtained an overbroad warrant. They obtained a warrant that called for the seizure of every electronic device, either on Mr. Amar's person or contained in Mr. Amar's home. Every electronic device.

As the Court in *Garcia* makes clear, and as numerous courts, including the circuit in *Boles* made clear, the application for a warrant needs to be specific as to the particular property to be searched. That specificity cannot be satisfied by a demand for and authorization to seize all electronic devices. What the agents and the government were required to do in applying for the warrant was to establish particularized probable cause as to why a specific piece of property, here Mr. Amar's cell phone, was likely to contain evidence for its instrumentalities of the suspected crimes set forth in the warrant.

A broad warrant that calls for execution in a household to seize all electronic devices at any time of day or night does not satisfy the particularity requirement.

Now, the reason that's central to this motion to suppress is how the agents then used that overbreadth to their advantage and to coerce, and in doing so, to violate the whole

reason for the Fourth Amendment's prohibition on general warrants.

When Mr. Amar was approached by the agents, he was given an option. He was told either give us the phone, enter your password, or we're going to execute the warrant to its fullest effect. That is the problem with the overbreadth here. It permitted them to use it coercively. And the way in which they used it undercuts any claim that they were relying upon the ruling of a magistrate to satisfy their good faith.

I'm happy to turn to the flaws with the probable cause if the Court would like to hear that next or answer any questions.

THE COURT: I'm familiar with the law. But as I'm reviewing the affidavit, the affidavit shows good cause. This is a crime that was plotted on the telephone. Javice and Amar used the phone to produce of — the allegations, phony names that would go into the inducement of Chase to do the deal.

As it is said on Page 8, 9, and 10 of the affidavit, there's sufficient information to show the use of phones listed to Javice and to Amar, based on their use of the phone to make many, many calls, and the interest to take all cell phones because so many people use multiple cell phones in carrying out their work. I believe this warrant was justified that way.

As to the giving of late notice, the warrant has to be successfully executed before notice could be given, otherwise

evidence will disappear. So there's nothing wrong with that late notice. I deny the motion to suppress.

MR. BUCKLEY: Your Honor, if I could just address one additional point with respect to the probable cause, not the notice issue? I understand the Court's ruling on that.

While the affidavit at Pages 8 through 10 does set forth what it purports to be an analysis of phone calls between Ms. Jervice and Mr. Amar, maybe that would be sufficient if this were an application for a wiretap under Title III to show that we're entitled to hear these phone calls because we now have demonstrated the connectivity between them.

The flaw in the reasoning there, as set forth in our papers, is those phone calls don't relate back to the specific device that they seized. And the device contains far more than simply toll records. So to allow them to get such a broad warrant to search the device for all sorts of electronic communications for photos, for everything that's listed on Appendix B of the warrant, based upon a toll analysis that pertains to phones that were not even necessarily the phone that ultimately was seized, I think, again, underscores how overbroad and improper this warrant was. The probable cause is lacking.

THE COURT: Certainly your argument is that it deals with a continuing crime. Therefore, you cannot get wiretaps to get information. But this was a crime that already occurred,

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and you're looking for evidence of it, and the evidence was carried out in the very instruments that are the basis of the search. So I deny the motion.

Where do we go from here, folks? Ms. McLeod?

MR. NITZE: Two scheduling matters.

First, with respect to the disclosure letter, your

Honor has directed -- I don't know if Ms. McLeod has a sense of
timing, but it is useful for us to know when we might expect
it.

THE COURT: Good thought.

MS. McLEOD: Three weeks, your Honor, if that's okay.

THE COURT: Is that satisfactory?

MR. NITZE: Two would be better.

THE COURT: One would be even better.

MS. McLEOD: I think three weeks would enable us to be able to make the letter as accurate as possible, your Honor, and not make us rush to get it done.

THE COURT: By June 20, noon.

MR. BUCKLEY: The only issue, Judge, and maybe this — we can present this to you after conferring with the government because I never want to be hashing out scheduling issues in front of the Court, but there are disclosure deadlines that the defense have that predate that June 21 —

THE COURT: What do you suggest?

MR. BUCKLEY: And it may be informed by this

disclosure.

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THE COURT: You want me to adjust those?

MR. BUCKLEY: With the Court's permission, we'll confer with the AUSAs and ideally propose a revised schedule.

THE COURT: Work out something appropriate and give me a stipulation.

MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: I think you already now know that Chase has asked for a large amount of time to deal with the privilege log, and we propose to grant that, and to have the hearing date occur on July 11.

A time, Alexandra.

MR. BUCKLEY: Your Honor, we have spoken --

THE COURT: What time?

Sorry, Mr. Buckley.

MR. BUCKLEY: I'm sorry, Judge. Not to interrupt. We had spoken with your Honor's courtroom deputy, and I think would request that it be on July 12, which is --

THE COURT: I can't do Friday.

MR. BUCKLEY: Can't do Friday. Okay.

THE COURT: 11:15 on July 11.

MR. NITZE: Your Honor, our understanding is that the June 28 date we proposed doesn't work because you're in the midst of a trial. In the event that for some reason that trial wraps itself up before June 28, I think the parties would be

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not just open to, but hoping, to change the privilege hearing,
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      move it up, I guess to fill that 28th date originally proposed.
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      So I just flag that for your consideration.
               THE COURT: Well, if the trial ends, we'll get in
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      touch with you and see if we can get an earlier date.
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               MR. NITZE:
                          Thank you.
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               THE COURT: Anything else, folks?
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               MS. McLEOD: Not from the government, your Honor.
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               THE COURT:
                          Thank you.
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               MR. NITZE:
                           Thank you, Judge.
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               MR. BUCKLEY: Thank you.
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               THE COURT: We don't need to exclude time, do we?
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               MS. McLEOD: I believe it's excluded until the trial
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      date.
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               THE COURT: Yeah.
                                  Okay.
               (Adjourned)
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